

Group Discussion Guide for Week of **12/15/2019**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Advent Week 3 – Adam spoke on Sunday how Advent (and the Gospel) speaks to the tension of peace available from God coupled with the reality that we live in a broken world that has had its peace shattered (think the Garden of Eden). How we respond to the reality that we live in a world not at peace (lacking Shalom) is critical. Adam said that “Joy untested by the sadness of life is somewhat naïve, but joy on the backside of sadness is powerful.” In other words, Jesus enters into our sadness (our world) and actively works to redeem it.

Adam rooted most of his message in **Isaiah ch61** where, 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote as if the Savior Himself was speaking (we know that supernaturally He was speaking, as the Scriptures are active and alive according to Heb.4:12). In **Isaiah ch.61** God is rescuing His people where face so much reoccurring sadness by hinting at the promise of the coming Messiah. This guide will focus on **Isaiah ch.61** (specifically v.1-4, but the entire chapter is amazing, so make sure folks take a look at all 11 verses too).

Adam then went on from **Luke ch.4** to show how Jesus Himself used **Isaiah ch.61** to illuminate His mission on earth; showing how “when the joy of Jesus collides with our deepest brokenness it unleashes a redemptive possibility that we cannot find anywhere else; In Jesus alone!” The question we should ask ourselves in response is then, “Can/Do we trust Jesus enough to do this? Can I trust Jesus enough to be the joy that redeems our sadness?”

Adam ended by looking at **Revelation 21:1-5** where we see the fullness of Jesus’ peace in the future.

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

Isaiah 61:1-4

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

O: Describe the **physical** interaction Messiah has with His people in this passage. (*The picture here is much more than just spiritual fluffy language, ex. freedom to captives, comfort to those mourning, provide, bestow, oil, garments, rebuilt ruins, ...*)

Follow-up: During times of grief in the O.T. God’s people would put on sackcloth and cover themselves with ashes as a sign of their mourning. How does Jesus replace these garments?

O: Jesus used this passage in **Luke 4:16-21** to illustrate His mission; describe as a group how big the mission of Jesus is. **Know**
Note, initially the people around Jesus were excited by this mission, but quickly they turned on Him (v.28); so really make sure that we don’t try to condense/reduce Jesus and His mission, let the scriptures speak.

O: How does Isaiah describe the results of the Messiah’s redeeming work and the effect it has upon God’s people (look at all of **Isaiah ch.61** together, especially v.3-4 & 6 & 10)? **Be**

I: Have someone read **Isaiah 61:1-7** and then **Luke 4:14-21**. When you imagine the people in the Nazareth synagogue, what sorts of thoughts would have been running through their mind when they heard Jesus say that this Scripture was being fulfilled in their midst?

A: How has Jesus continued to fulfill these prophecies in your life and in the world around you (be specific, brag on God)!

Follow-up: In what ways do you read this passage, and somewhere in your heart think, “yea right.”?
Be honest, we live in a world with lots of sadness and lack-of-peace, be open with your skepticism, doubts, let us leverage each other’s faith!

A: The closing question from Adam’s Sermon: Can/Do we trust Jesus enough to do this? Do I trust Jesus enough to be the joy that redeems our sadness?

Another way to ask: How does your own life need to go through a Jubilee where God brings true freedom, reconciliation, and rest?

Follow-up: Who else do you know that also needs to experience the Jubilee that is Jesus himself? Pray for them and then be the hands and feet of Jesus to them!

A: Jesus laid out His big mission in **Luke 4:18-19**, and the church is to carry on the mission of Jesus. Which area of Jesus’ mission from **Luke ch.4** do you/we give priority to and which to we tend to neglect? **Do**

Note: The Riverside devotional for this series is going through **Isaiah**. It’s **VERY VERY** good. Really consider journeying through it with our broader church this Advent season! You can begin today: www.riversidecommunity.org/resources/daily-devotional/

Recommended Follow-up:

- Pray: As a group, go around and thank God for a specific area of our lives where He has brought true freedom, reconciliation, and rest. Ask God to work through your lives to point others to the freedom that Jesus offers to all of us.
- Respond: Spend this week responding to God’s word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week’s companion devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a “**Know, Be, Do**” person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

Know – “*to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God*” Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – “*so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way*” Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – “*bearing fruit in every good work, ...*” Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice “*bearing fruit in every good work*” then yields more “*growing in the knowledge of God.*” In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a daily devotional guide available each week.

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study*, Zondervan